

MISCELLANY

Under this department are ordinarily grouped: News Items; Letters; Special Articles; Twenty-Five Years Ago column; California Board of Medical Examiners; and other columns as occasion may warrant. Items for the News column must be furnished by the fifteenth of the preceding month. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

NEWS

Coming Meetings.†

California Medical Association, Hotel Del Monte, Del Monte, California, May 4-7, 1942.

American Medical Association, Atlantic City, June 8-12, 1942.

Forum on Allergy: Fourth Annual Conference, Detroit, Michigan, January 10 and 11, 1942.

The Platform of the American Medical Association

The American Medical Association advocates:

1. The establishment of an agency of Federal Government under which shall be coordinated and administered all medical and health functions of the Federal Government, exclusive of those of the Army and Navy.

2. The allotment of such funds as the Congress may make available to any state in actual need for the prevention of disease, the promotion of health, and the care of the sick on proof of such need.

3. The principle that the care of the public health and the provision of medical service to the sick is primarily a local responsibility.

4. The development of a mechanism for meeting the needs of expansion of preventive medical services with local determination of needs and local control of administration.

5. The extension of medical care for the indigent and the medically indigent with local determination of needs and local control of administration.

6. In the extension of medical services to all the people, the utmost utilization of qualified medical and hospital facilities already established.

7. The continued development of the private practice of medicine, subject to such changes as may be necessary to maintain the quality of medical services and to increase their availability.

8. Expansion of public health and medical services consistent with the American system of democracy.

Medical Broadcasts.*

Los Angeles County Medical Association.

The following is the Los Angeles County Medical Association's radio broadcast schedule for the month of December, 1941:

Saturday, December 6—KFAC, 8:45 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Saturday, December 6—KFI, 9:45 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, December 13—KFAC, 8:45 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Saturday, December 13—KFI, 9:45 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, December 20—KFAC, 8:45 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

† In the front advertising section of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, various rosters of national officers and organizations appear each week, each list being printed about every fourth week.

* County societies giving medical broadcasts are requested to send information as soon as arranged (stating station, day, date and hour, and subject) to CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco, for inclusion in this column.

Saturday, December 20—KFI, 9:45 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, December 27—KFAC, 8:45 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Saturday, December 27—KFI, 9:45 a. m., The Road of Health.

Lectures on Psychiatric Syndromes.—Dr. Jacob Frostig, lecturer and research associate in psychiatry, University of California Medical School, San Francisco, is lecturing in Los Angeles at the Cedars of Lebanon Hospital on Tuesdays at 7:30 to 9 p. m. His subject is the "Differential Diagnosis of Psychiatric Syndromes." The course will continue for about four more months. Physicians are welcome.

American Medical Association Broadcasts.—*Doctors at Work*, the dramatized radio program broadcast by the American Medical Association and the National Broadcasting Company will go on the air for its second season, beginning December 6, 1941, from 5:30 to 6 p. m., Eastern Standard time (4:30 to 5 p. m., Central Standard time; 3:30 to 4 p. m., Mountain Standard time; 2:30 to 3:30 p. m., Pacific Standard time.) The program will be broadcast on upward of seventy-five stations affiliated with the Red network of the National Broadcasting Company and will be heard from coast to coast.

Doctors at Work, a successful, serialized story broadcast last year, dealt with the experiences of a fictitious but typical American boy choosing medicine for his vocation and proceeding to acquire the necessary education and hospital training for the private practice of medicine. Interwoven with the personal story of young Dr. Tom Riggs and his fiancée, Alice Adams, was the romance of modern medicine and how it benefits the doctor's patients.

The new series of broadcasts will resume where last year's story left off, namely, with the marriage of Tom Riggs and Alice Adams, and the subsequent life of a young doctor and his wife in time of national emergency in a typical, medium-sized, American city.

The program will be produced under the supervision of the Bureau of Health Education of the American Medical Association, W. W. Bauer, M. D., Director. Scripts will be by William J. Murphy of the National Broadcasting Company, author of such successful radio productions as "Flying Time," "Cameos of New Orleans," "Your Health," "Medicine in the News," and last year's "Doctors at Work." The scripts will again be produced by J. Clinton Stanley, and the National Broadcasting Company orchestra will be under the direction of Joseph Gallichio as heretofore. Actors will be drawn from the well-known group of Chicago radio actors previously heard in American Medical Association and other successful broadcasts.

The program will be available to all stations affiliated with the Red network of the National Broadcasting Company. Announcements should be sought in local newspaper radio columns, under the title "Doctors at Work," or possibly "American Medical Association" or, in some instances, "Health Broadcasts." Evidence of local interest in the program may be the determining factor in whether a local station takes this educational, sustaining feature or sells its time to a local revenue-producing program. Physicians and friends may wish to write to local stations in commendation of the programs.

Army's Social Disease Problem Laid at Door of Civilians.—Joseph Henry Jackson, in the San Francisco *Chronicle*, in The Bookman's Daily Notebook department, writes:

"Five years ago Dr. Thomas Parran was appointed Surgeon-General, United States Public Health Service.

"With that appointment began a movement like nothing that had ever taken place in the United States before—a definite, clear-cut effort to drag out into the light the taboo topic of the social diseases and to do something about stamping them out. To be sure, the United States was far behind Sweden, for example, which had brought its sick-per-thousand figures down to a small fraction of what they had been and what other countries, most of them, have long tolerated. But a late beginning was better than none. . . .

"Since then, the movement has made tremendous steps forward. Or perhaps it would be better to say that it had made great steps forward, until something else happened. That something else was the defense program, which involved putting a cross-section of America's young men into training camps.

"This necessary move has had tragic results in one direction. As a result of it, the downward curve of venereal disease has begun to climb again. Just how and why is the subject of the two most important chapters in a new book, 'Plain Words About Venereal Diseases' (Raynal & Hitchcock; \$2), written by Surgeon-General Parran and his assistant, Dr. R. A. Vondelehr. Their frank and shocking revelations are of the utmost importance—put it on the hardest-boiled ground you like—to every single taxpayer who has to put out his money for the needless waste of man power and money these diseases are costing at the most critical moment in this nation's history.

"As the public knows, since September, 1939, our Army has been multiplied more than eight times. Of this 1,500,000 new men, the point to remember is that no recognized cases of venereal disease were accepted for service. . . .

"Reports showed the expected reduction at first. Then, regiment by regiment, the rates crept up. By March of 1940, for example, the rate was almost back up to 'normal.' With a new influx of men in June, 1941, the rate went down again. . . .

"Unpleasant as it is to think about, the fact is there. Approximately 600,000 young men, an average American cross-section of sons, have been called into the Army to become infected with just one of the venereal diseases. . . .

"Doctor Parran does not mince words. 'What is our most expanded war industry?' he asks. He gives the answer: 'Prostitution.' The girl-syndicates are busy as they have never been before, which, of course, though Doctor Parran doesn't bring up the point, means the revival in still more vicious forms of an old kind of gangsterism." . . .

To the above may be added the following figures relating to California, compiled from a recent United States Public Health bulletin:

ANNUAL RATES PER ONE THOUSAND POPULATION FOR
SYPHILIS AND FOR GONORRHEA BY STATES
(Fiscal Year 1941)

State	Annual rates per 1,000 population Syphilis	Gonorrhea
California	3.3	3.0
Average (all states)	3.7	1.5

ANNUAL RATES PER ONE THOUSAND POPULATION FOR
SYPHILIS AND FOR GONORRHEA BY CITIES
(Fiscal Year 1941)

City	Annual rates per 1,000 population Syphilis	Gonorrhea
Los Angeles	4.5	3.7
Oakland	2.5	2.3
San Diego	5.0	7.9
San Francisco	4.0	4.0
Average (all cities)	4.8	2.3

LOS ANGELES HEALTH DEPARTMENT VENEREAL CLINIC

Beginning Monday, November 3, 1941, new patients were admitted to the Southeast Polyclinic of the Los Angeles City Health Department at 5425 South Central Avenue, for consultation, advice and treatment for the venereal diseases.

This clinic is the finest of its kind in California. At a cost of \$15,000 for reconstruction and equipment, the Bureau of Venereal Diseases of the State Department of Public Health and the City Health Department have co-operated to set up a health clinic which is entirely modern and to which we and the residents of the southeast district look with pride.

Clinic hours for new patients seeking tests or advice are as follows:

Tuesday—9 a. m. to 11 a. m.; 12:30 p. m. to 3:30 p. m.

Wednesday—12:30 p. m. to 3:30 p. m.

Friday—8 a. m. to 11 a. m.; 12:30 p. m. to 3:30 p. m.

The clinic is set up for child-hygiene conferences which have been in operation during the past month, and for venereal disease clinics which begin operation on November 3. Later, other health work will be established in the new quarters to round out the health program and provide good health service to the community.

Scientific Attack on Problems of the American Diet.

"A higher level of nutrition for the better health of all Americans is an integral part of national progress," Mr. Swift pointed out in making the formal announcement. "To advance fundamental knowledge of foods and to discover or develop ways to feed our nation better and make our people healthier, happier, and more efficient, Swift & Company has undertaken to expand its support of nutrition research. The fellowships in nutrition are designed further to enlist the country's research talents and facilities in order to achieve the long-range objectives of the national nutrition program and the immediate aims of national defense." For further information, address Research Laboratories, Swift & Company, Chicago, Illinois.

California Tuberculosis Association.—This year tuberculosis associations in California will try for a goal of \$520,000 in the annual Christmas Seal sale. Last year the Seal sale in California netted 6.7 cents per capita. Two states—New York and Pennsylvania—had larger gross returns than California. And Delaware came through with a per capita of 10.3 cents.

California's tuberculosis death rate is higher than that of the three states which led us last year in the Seal sale. Hence, the goal for this year is not set merely to beat our Eastern friends, but to meet a need which is greater this year than ever before. . . .

Christmas Seal funds may be used to encourage and promote the establishment and the support from public funds, or other sources, of services and facilities for case-finding, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of the tuberculous. Such public services and facilities include diagnostic clinics directed by trained personnel and equipped with facilities for tuberculin testing and chest x-rays; institutions for the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis; public health nursing; medical social workers; counseling, training and placement of patients; provision for sheltered employment and prolonged medical and social follow-up of arrested cases after their discharge from sanatoria.

Where such services do not exist and no public funds are available for their establishment, contributions from Christmas Seal funds are permissible, provided liberal community participation is also assured. Transfer to public support must be made as soon as the value of these services has been accepted as a public responsibility.

Urology Award.—The American Urological Association offers an annual award "not to exceed \$500" for an essay (or essays) on the result of some specific clinical or laboratory research in urology. The amount of the prize is based on the merits of the work presented, and if the Committee on Scientific Research deem none of the offerings worthy, no award will be made. Competitors shall be limited to residents in urology in recognized hospitals and to urologists who have been in such specific practice for not more than five years. Essays shall be in the hands of the secretary, Dr. Clyde L. Deming, 789 Howard Avenue, New Haven, Connecticut, on or before April 1, 1942.

Tularemia Season Is Here: Handle Rabbits With Care.—With the hunting season coming up, the American Red Cross warns nimrods to think twice before shooting the lackadaisical rabbit—it may carry the deadly tularemia germ.

Dr. Albert McCown, medical director of the Red Cross, points out tularemia not only threatens the hunter, but the housewife and market man, as well. He advises those handling rabbits in dressing and cooking to wear rubber gloves. Happily, thorough cooking kills tularemia virus, removing possibility of infection.

To the hunter, Doctor McCown gives this advice: Avoid the listless rabbit that makes too easy a target; chances are it is diseased, more than likely with tularemia. Although the rabbit is the most frequent carrier of tularemia, other animals carry the disease. Opposums, muskrats, skunks, and other rodent-type animals often pick up the infection from wood ticks, he said.

Bulletin from the Pharmacological Laboratory of the University of California Medical School.—Calling attention to pharmacological items of potential interest to clinicians, the Bulletin states:

1. *Occasional Amusement for Busy Clinicians in Weekly Issues of Science:* B. F. Sieve (*Science*, 94:257, 1941) claims gray-haired humans blossom with marked darkening in about two months from twice daily oral ingestions of 100 milligrams of p-aminobenzoic acid. Sulfonamide should inhibit this. To the notions of S. Ansbacher (*Science*, 93: 164, 1941) and of P. Fildes (*Lancet*, 238:955, 1940) that p-aminobenzoic acid is a vitamin factor in the B complex, S. Wiedling adds evidence of its being essential to metabolism of all kinds of plants, and found in them (*Science*, 94:389, 1941). S. A. Peoples devises a method for continuous recording of the rate of oxygen consumption (*ibid.*, 373). A. A. Blanchard discusses the metal carbonyls which are so important in the theory of chemistry and which have such remarkable biological action (*ibid.*, 311). E. Witebsky and N. C. Klendshoj (*ibid.*, 256) describe with many references their isolation of groups specific carbohydrates from gastric juice for A, B, and O bloods, and the preparation of safe universal donor O blood by neutralizing anti-A and anti-B antibodies by 10 milligrams A and B specific substances in 10 cubic centimeters of physiological saline solution per 500 cubic centimeters of O blood. G. W. Thorn, L. L. Engel, and R. A. Lewis (*ibid.*, 348) show that while corticosterone and desoxycorticosterone greatly reduce urinary sodium chlorid excretion, 17-hydroxy-corticosterone and 11-dehydro-17-hydroxycorticosterone greatly increase it. This seems to explain why desoxycorticosterone therapy in Addison's disease produces edema, and indicates that potent adrenal cortex extracts contain a mixture of sodium retaining and sodium excreting factors.

2. *New Books:* C. K. Drinker and J. M. Yoffey, "Lymphatics, Lymph and Lymphoid Tissue," Harvard Press, Cambridge, 1941; this gives much of Dr. Drinker's Lane Lectures on the physiological and clinical significance of the lymphatic apparatus. S. L. Polyak, "The Retina," University of Chicago Press, 1941. D. Perla and J. Marmormston, "Natural Resistance and Clinical Medicine," Little Brown, Boston, 1941, a comprehensive, well-documented, and well-organized volume. J. T. Culbertson, "Immunity Against Animal Parasites," Columbia University Press, New York, 1941. A. Kardiner, "The Traumatic Neuroses of War," Hoeber, New York, 1941. G. W. Harley, "Native

African Medicine," Harvard Press, Cambridge, 1941. G. W. Gray, "The Advancing Front of Medicine," New York, 1941, a clearly written canonical expression by an orthodox New York reporter. B. J. Stern, "Society and Medical Progress," Princeton Press, 1941, another canonical expression by a New York sociologist. S. and J. F. Flexner, "William Henry Welch," New York, 1941, neither a critical definitive biography nor an entertaining popularization, but something betwixt.

3. *Scandinavian Contributions:* N. Emmelin (*Acta Physiol. Scand.*, 2:289, 1941) finds that evipal and other barbitals give atropin-like effects on autonomic system. H. Levi (*ibid.*, 311) describes a neat Geiger counter arrangement. T. Broman and D. Jacobsohn (*ibid.*, 324) find that cat's brain, 0.7-1.1 body weight 2.5-5 per cent body oxygen intake. K. Agner (*ibid.*, suppl. 8, 1941) isolates a new iron containing "verdoperoxidase" from leukocytes, which is responsible for the green color of chloroleukemic infiltrates.

4. *Odds and Ends:* J. Gillman (*S. Afr. J. Med. Sci.*, 6:59, 1941) shows basal fat distribution in cells of endometrium is proportional to progesterone concentration (directly) and to estrone concentration (inversely) and may be used to estimate therapeutic effectiveness of progesterone. E. Chain, H. W. Florey and associates (*Lancet*, 241:177, 1941) give much detail on preparation, assay, low toxicity, rapid urinary excretion, and very high bacteriostatic action of "penicillin." G. Lockemann, et al. (*Zentralbl. Bak. Parasit. Infek.*, 147:1, 1941) in comparing germicidal action of methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, and iso-propyl alcohols find n-propyl alcohol most generally active over widest range of mixture with water.

Press Clippings.—Some news items from the daily press on matters related to medical practice follow:

Butte County Tries Group Doctoring

Oroville, November 10 (INS).—Individual health costs less than \$1 a month on a cooperative basis in Butte County for 119 low-income farm families.

The Butte County farm family is the smallest of any county in the state, and has been selected as a model for the medical health cooperative by the Federal Security Administration.

Dr. William Reidy, FSA official of San Francisco, said the federal agency has loaned many of these families the necessary \$48 a year to enter the cooperative.

Lowest in Price

Based on 3.9 members to the average family, the experiment is costing each participant less than \$1 a month, he explained. Yet, the cooperative is the lowest in price and the most inclusive of medical service offered by any group in the nation.

Broken limbs, confinements, appendectomies, and innumerable illnesses which come suddenly and unexpectedly upon a family are furnished for the nominal yearly fee.

Backed by Doctors

Backed by the California Physicians' Service, each cooperative member can choose his own physician within the organization.

Similar experiments are being organized in the state, and California now has 260 low-income farm families under the cooperative plan.—San Francisco *Call-Bulletin*, November 10.

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Medical Journal Flays Vitamin "Gold Rush"

Chicago, October 24 (UP).—Eat a balanced diet and forget "shotgun vitamin pills." *The Journal of the American Medical Association* advised today in an editorial effort to stem "the vitamin (pill) gold rush of 1941."

"There are lush profits in the vitamin business," the *Journal* said in its editorial. "Enterprising manufacturers of all kinds are climbing on the wagons and taking the trail . . . in a vitamin gold rush of 1941, making the California trek of 1848 pale by comparison."

The editorial criticized "the unwarranted claims" being made by manufacturers promoting the sale of vitamins to the public, and suggested:

"If daily consumption of a good serving of ham, a green vegetable, a glass of milk, a slice of brown bread, an orange, and other constituents of a suitable diet will not maintain the body in a proper state of nutrition, a medical study is needed more than a shotgun pill of vitamins."

The editorial said vitamins are essential as important food constituents, but that adding them to diet in "unlimited amounts" will not increase bodily efficiency or necessarily bring the "health and beauty" promised by some manufacturers.—Pasadena *Star-News*, October 24.